

Service Agencies, and he has served as Chair of the Episcopal Commission on Advocacy for Children and Youth. John is actively involved in the Foster Care Project at All Saints Episcopal Church, and he is a Canon in the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles.

For over 40 years, John has truly been a voice for at-risk children. His kindness, foresight, leadership and extraordinary energy have profoundly impacted the lives of the 25,000 children and their families in his care over the years. By maintaining a deep awareness of the children's current needs as well as personal knowledge of each of the residents in Hillside's care, John has created a warm, loving environment where children feel secure enough to rebuild hope for the future.

I ask all Members of Congress to join me today in honoring John M. Hitchcock for nearly 40 years of dedicated service to Hillside Home for Children and the entire community.

#### OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

##### HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Madam Speaker, today our national debt is 12,409,374,679,862.09.

On January 6th, 2009, the start of the 111th Congress, the national debt was \$10,638,425,746,293.80.

This means the national debt has increased by \$1,770,948,933,568.29 so far this Congress. The debt has increased \$6,347,500,206.80 since just yesterday.

This debt and its interest payments we are passing to our children and all future Americans.

#### TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL LARRY DODGEN

##### HON. PARKER GRIFFITH

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great American who was a good friend of mine and a good friend of north Alabama—Lieutenant General Larry Dodgen. General Dodgen passed away this past Saturday leaving a void in our Huntsville community. He was a battle tested soldier, having led his battalion into war in 1993 during Operation Desert Storm. Later in his career, he became commander of the U.S. Army Aviation and Missile Command (AMCOM) at Redstone Arsenal. He assumed this command on September 10, 2001, and led during a trying and transformative time in our nation's history. Following that duty, in 2003, he was tapped to command the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command/Army Forces Strategic Command headquartered at Redstone (SMDC/ARSTRAT). He was fully invested not only in the Arsenal, but also in the Huntsville community. He was a leader in the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process on Team Redstone. Following his retirement from his distinguished career in the United States

Army, he remained in the community and became the corporate lead executive of Northrop Grumman's Huntsville operations. Men such as General Dodgen are rare; he was a true servant who was fully involved both in his profession and his community. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Leslie, and his many friends and family who are mourning at this time. Next month I will join with many others to honor him as he is laid to rest among his fellow heroes at Arlington National Cemetery. We will all truly miss this great man, and are better for having had the opportunity to know him.

#### HONORING GLOBAL FAMILY DAY FOUNDER LINDA GROVER

##### HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, on February 20, 2010, we lost a dedicated and tireless voice for the pursuit of peace and global sharing and cooperation, Linda Grover. I joined Ms. Grover in the founding of Global Family Day, an effort to celebrate and promote harmony within the global family every January 1st, but it was Linda whose every undertaking was in the name of Global Family Day.

Linda Grover, an author, writer, and activist, was resolute in her belief that all people, regardless of race, culture, religion, or economic status, celebrate life on earth together as one human family. It was in the promotion of this ideal, that Linda Grover and her children conceived Global Family Day, One Day of Peace and Sharing, an international holiday that would allow people around the world to engage in global fellowship.

Linda's Global Family Day initiatives were supported by the Congress and United Nations. In 2000, the 106th Congress unanimously passed S. Con. Res. 138 and in 2006, the 109th Congress unanimously passed H. Con. Res. 317 and S. Res. 582. These Congressional resolutions urged the President of the United States to issue an annual proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe Global Family Day. In 1999 and 2001, United Nations General Assembly resolutions, UNRes54/29 and UNRes56/2, were passed, recognizing a day of peace on January 1st and encouraging Member states to observe the global holiday.

This Congress, I introduced another Global Family Day resolution, H. Con. Res. 221. In this purpose, I was joined by Representative DENNIS KUCINICH and Senators HARRY REID and DANIEL INOUE. It was Linda's hope, as well as ours, that there finally be a proclamation issued by the President asking that the citizens of the United States celebrate Global Family Day, thereby resulting in the Day's widespread observance.

In advancing Linda Grover's legacy, we will continue to pursue this proclamation and recognize Global Family Day every January 1st. Just as Ms. Grover believed, I think that, despite our differences, each of us has an interest in pursuing peaceful solutions to many of our contemporary world problems. A better appreciation for one another, practiced at the start of a new year, can only lead to the eradication of human suffering that results from violence, hunger, poverty, and other social ills.

Even in the weeks right before she died, Linda worked diligently to spread the Global Family Day message. Linda said, "it's [Global Family Day] is going to improve our global attitude and give us a slightly better chance to overcome all these global crises that are demanding global solutions. Economy, Environment, Energy, Ethnic Enmity, Education, Employment, Epidemics—and those are just the ones that start with the letter E."

Linda's fight and determination to spread the message of peace and sharing through Global Family Day will be missed. However, I will work to make sure that the message is not forgotten. Linda is survived by three children, who I understand will continue their mother's work to champion Global Family Day, and I will join them in this effort. We must all understand, as Linda did, that by working together as one global family, we can better meet the challenges humanity will face in the years to come.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

##### HON. JOHN BARROW

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. BARROW. Madam Speaker. I was unable to be present for votes on Monday, February 22, 2010. Had I been present I would have voted "yes" on Rollcall Vote No. 49 and Rollcall Vote No. 50.

#### NEXT GENERATION CHOICES FOUNDATION: WORKING TO LESSEN CANCER

##### HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, like so many Americans, my family and I have been touched by cancer. I have worked over the years in Congress as a member of the Congressional Cancer Caucus as well as my service on the Appropriations Committee to support measures to help fight cancer, including historic increases in research funding for the National Institutes of Health, NIH. I have always believed that ensuring adequate funding for medical research on diseases such as cancer is an important priority for the federal government.

There is another important component in the fight against cancer being lead today, Madam Speaker, by Bill Couzens, one of my constituents from Middleburg, Virginia. He heads a grassroots nonprofit organization—the Next Generation Choices Foundation—that he founded over 6 years ago, to build awareness for cancer prevention by reducing environmental exposures both known and suspected to be linked with cancer. After the loss of his sister Anne, mother Joan and several close friends, he felt the need to create an organization that would focus on the root causes of the worldwide cancer epidemic and increase awareness on ways to reduce exposures and choices linked with human health and the environment. He says he learned that there are healthy choices that can be made by individuals and communities to work toward a world

with less cancer, including nutritional food options for families.

Next Generation Choices in turn has formed the Less Cancer Campaign, which has grown to become a worldwide leader in cancer prevention awareness, with over 10,000 members, friends, and fans on Facebook. The reach of the Less Cancer Campaign has been wide; numerous other organizations have followed its lead and collaborated to fan the flame for cancer prevention around the globe. These combined efforts have raised awareness for Less Cancer, not just here in America, but around the world.

The Less Cancer and new Healthy Town campaigns are working to help guide communities and individuals on understanding the importance of making strong choices, and providing information on options and resources available to assist them in making healthy decisions. While most often pointing to options for the consumer, the organization in some rare cases has provided food cards, information for healthy food choices, and even shoes for children who need to get out and move, run and play.

While Mr. Couzens' personal experience inspired his passion to help lessen the grip of cancer on society, he also understood the importance of working with scientists and physicians who have a depth of work in evidenced-based science. Next Generation Choices board of directors includes Ronald B. Herberman, M.D., founding director of the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, associate vice chancellor for cancer research, Hillman professor of oncology, and professor of medicine at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine. Dr. Herberman is an internationally recognized tumor immunologist who has made major discoveries in his field and has fostered the application of this information to novel approaches in cancer therapy, diagnosis and prevention. The phenomenon of natural killer, NK, cell-mediated cytotoxicity against tumors was first discovered in Dr. Herberman's laboratory at the National Cancer Institute in the early 1970s. In addition to his pioneering investigation of NK cells, Dr. Herberman has played a leading role in multiple areas of tumor immunology.

Other leaders in science and medicine on the board are Maryann Donovan, Ph.D., the director of the Center for Environmental Oncology at the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute, and Thomas M. Sherman, M.D., a gastroenterologist. The board also includes professionals in industry and business. Greg Lam and John Couzens both contribute from their years in business and nonprofit management. Miles M. O'Brien is a 26-year broadcast news veteran. Based in New York City, he owns a production company that creates, produces, and distributes original content across all media platforms. For nearly 17 years he worked as a correspondent, anchor, and producer for CNN based in Atlanta and New York. At various times he was CNN's science, space, aviation, technology, and environment correspondent. Also on the board is Veronique Pittman, a trustee of The Rainforest Foundation and Round Hill Hotels and Villas, and a partner with Rainforest Native, which imports fair-trade ecological products from the Amazon rain forest. In addition, she sits on the Leadership Council of the Green Schools Alliance and is an Advisory Board member of the Sustainable Acai Project and Global Goods Partners.

Next Generation Choices, Less Cancer, and Healthy Town are closely associated with cancer prevention, but also work to reduce all illnesses associated with human health and the environment. As Mr. Couzens has said, "When communities and individuals work to make healthier choices, great strides toward preventing cancer and other illnesses including heart disease, diabetes, and obesity can be made. By educating people and unifying individuals and programs—transformation will occur for the next generation."

Madam Speaker, the battle against cancer will take the work of individuals, communities, businesses and governments, and we salute the effort of Bill Couzens and Next Generation Choices as they raise awareness on ways we can all be involved in this fight.

#### IN RECOGNITION OF MS. KELLY REFFETT'S YEARS OF SERVICE TO ILLINOIS VALLEY COMMUNITIES

**HON. DEBORAH L. HALVORSON**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mrs. HALVORSON. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Kelly Reffett's years of work in community service and disaster relief and to wish her well as she retires from her role as President of the Illinois Valley Federation of Labor.

Ms. Reffett began her career in 1979 as an operator for Ameritech in Canton, IL. After working for Ameritech for twenty years, Kelly joined the American Red Cross of Greater Chicago as Director of Partner Relations and AFL-CIO Labor Participation. For ten years, Kelly worked to expand preparedness education opportunities to diverse populations, served disaster stricken communities, and broadened partnerships with corporations and community organizations.

In this position, she directed teams of nearly 100 people at 23 locations, providing executive guidance and program assistance to on-site supervisors and Volunteer in Service to America members. She also served as Partner Services Manager/Officer and Labor Liaison on 25 national relief operations including Hurricane Katrina and World Trade Center 9/11 operations. She co-developed the AFL-CIO's 2009 handbook outlining guidelines and policies for volunteer disaster relief operations. These accomplishments are only a small sampling of Kelly's impressive career.

In addition to her national service, Kelly was also selected to serve at the state and county level. Since 2003, Kelly has served as a commissioner on the Illinois State Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service. In 2008, she was appointed to serve on the LaSalle County Board. Shortly thereafter, she was elected to that office.

Throughout her long career, Ms. Reffett has also remained dedicated to the cause of working families. Serving as President of the Illinois Valley Federation of Labor for over two decades, she always put the best interests of Illinois Valley workers first.

Ms. Kelly Reffett has had a long and proud career, one that is not ending as she retires from the presidency of the Illinois Valley Federation of Labor. Having worked with her over

the years, I am sure she will continue to work to improve her community, as she has done over and throughout her long and successful career.

#### CONGRATULATING THE TRANSPORTATION TRADES DEPARTMENT ON ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, February 24, 2010*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to congratulate the Transportation Trades Department, AFL-CIO as this strong voice for transportation workers marks its 20th anniversary.

Transportation is at the core of our daily lives and our economy. From ancient civilization through the present day, the quality of transportation serves as a true measure of a society. How well do people live their daily lives? How quickly and efficiently can people and goods get from one place to another? Does the quality of transportation strengthen or weaken an economy?

As we map the vision for our future, we must keep asking these questions. Are we doing all we can to invest in modern, safe, and efficient transportation? Are the workers in this industry as well-trained, experienced, and prepared as possible? Are they treated with respect and dignity? Are they trusted and empowered? Do their wages and working conditions help—or hurt—the ability to attract and retain good men and women for these jobs?

The work of the Transportation Trades Department (TTD), of the AFL-CIO lies at the heart of these questions. In every major transportation policy debate in Washington over the past 20 years, TTD has been front and center, providing an honest, substantive, and respected voice on behalf of millions of transportation workers. TTD brings their voices to those in public office, helping forge far better policy and decision-making than if the organization did not exist.

TTD has always had the courage and conviction to demand accountability, to make sure that public and private sector transportation leaders are truly placing safety and our national transportation network's true needs ahead of ideology and profit. In an industry—and world—that has been so turbulent in recent years, the value of TTD's vigilant watchdog role is priceless.

As the Chairman of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, I can count on TTD to bring integrity, intellectual depth, and refreshing clarity to my Committee and the entire Congress. I have long valued TTD as a trusted friend and ally, and its substantive, bipartisan approach has often been helpful in bringing about consensus on important issues.

As my committee has engaged in enacting critical legislation—from the surface transportation bill to the FAA reauthorization bill, from the Coast Guard reauthorization to Amtrak and rail safety reauthorization—TTD has been a comprehensive and credible resource. Its member unions are on the front lines of our transportation network—whether on the ground, in the air or at sea.